(*b*) whether any of the posts, viz., village monigars, karnams and assistant karnams, occupied by the depressed classes were offered to caste people and they were confirmed during the last five years for some reasons or other; and

(*c*) if so, the reasons for such action?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Information on the points referred to is not on record.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—" I find that the answer given to the whole of my question is as follows: 'Information on the points referred to is not on record'. May I know therefore, Sir, whether the Government are going on with their administration without maintaining any record whatsoever?"

Amalgamation of Jillopanayakkanpalaiyam and Valaiyapalaiyam villages.

* 26 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the villages of Jillopanaickanpalayam and Valayapalayam in Udumalpet taluk of Coimbatore district have been recently grouped together; if so, when and how many months after the Legislative Council passed a resolution against such amalgamations; and

(*b*) the reasons for the amalgamation; and whether the Board of Revenue took the Council's resolution into consideration before ordering the amalgamation; if the order was made before the resolution, whether the Board took any action to prevent effect being given to the order in view of the resolution and the undertaking given at the time by the Government practically to the effect that no more amalgamations would be effected?

A.—(*a*) Yes; this is the case referred to in the answer to question No. 1468 answered at the meeting of 6th December 1924. The regrouping was ordered on 15th September 1924.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*c*) of the question referred to above.

Criminal Tribes Act.

Extension of the Criminal Tribes Act to Dandasis in Ganjam district.

* 27 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether and when the Criminal Tribes Act was extended to the Dandasis of Ganjam district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the village vettis and talaiyaris in the Ganjam district are almost exclusively recruited from this class;

(*c*) whether the Dandasis are a wandering tribe;

(*d*) what is their population and how many of them approximately do not have ostensible means of livelihood or occupation;

(*e*) whether any of their class is without house and occupation; and

(*f*) whether he is aware that they are generally trusted as watchers of property, etc.?

A.—(*a*) Sections 3 and 10 of the Criminal Tribes Act were applied in 1923 to the Dandasis of Ganjam district. In 1924 the Government directed that for the time being only known criminal males with their relatives and associates should be registered. This order is still in force.

(*b*) Some Dandasis are employed as village talaiyaris or watchmen.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) According to the census of 1921, there were 17,433 males and 24,335 females. The Government have no information as to the percentage which has no ostensible means of livelihood.

(*e*) & (*f*) The Government have no information.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I wish to know the number of those registered already and how it compares with the actual number."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice, Sir."

Forests.

Source of timber supply to the Russellkonda saw mill.

*28 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of forests and reserves from which timber is extracted for the Russellkonda saw mill ;

(*b*) what is the average cost per cubic foot for felling timber in those forests ;

(*c*) what is the average cost of carting per cubic foot of timber from the forests where they are felled to the Russellkonda saw mills ; and

(*d*) what is the average cost price per cubic foot of timber shown in the accounts of the Russellkonda saw mill ?

A.—(*a*) Rambha, Gogodo, Pacchalia, Pippalaponka, Kriamba, Chendragiri, Gallery, Gundribadi, Rogoda, Baiballi and Brahmanasai reserves.

(*b*) One anna 5·4 pies.

(*c*) Three annas 3·75 pies.

(*d*) Four annas.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I wish to know the cost per square foot of ordinary log of timber."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not know these details. I want notice."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Is the Russellkonda mill working ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is stopped temporarily."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I wish to know what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee on this question."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice of the question."